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NPIC/TSSG/NSA-091-70
16 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : AID Study Concerning ADP Requirements of the [] Image Manipulation System

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REFERENCE: AID Report of the Subject Study, approximate date 17 February 1970

1. The report of the subject study is a very useful paper. A comprehensive analysis of the [] Image Manipulation System ADP requirements has been made and a number of well-conceived methods for AID satisfaction of these requirements are described, including budgetary and work load estimates. The paper is well-organized and expressed with unusual clarity; it sets a high standard for work of this type. My comments which follow regard cautions for NSD in relation to the AID positions stated or implicit in this paper.

2. There are several places in the paper which state or imply that AID believes the programmers should fully understand the operation and theory of the program being converted. In my limited contacts with other organizations having computer support divisions similar to AID, I have found it to be more typical for the knowledge of the theory and operations to be the responsibility of the technical organizations requiring the computer support rather than the computer division. The responsibility of the computer division is more typically limited to the function of working together with technological specialists in the process of converting their knowledge to computer programs. Aside from the pros and cons of this division of responsibility from an efficiency stand point, I believe that the practical accomplishment of satisfactory technological computer support for NSD requires that NSD personnel be responsible for the theory and experimental knowledge to be served by the computer program. Whatever level of expertise in these areas AID is able to establish should be subservient to that of the organization requiring the computer support.

3. In Paragraph 8 concerning the changes needed in NPIC's computer division facilities in order to handle the [] Image Manipulation Program, the word "could" is frequently used in association with statements of capability under certain conditions. The use of this word leaves the impression that the capability may exist but it does not provide assurance that it will indeed be practical for AID to provide

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the services needed in light of the other demands being made upon AID. In other words, these statements are less reassuring than a specific commitment to the effect that AID will perform the required services, if AID is provided with such and such equipment, etc. Again my concern is whether this paper represents analyses and estimates that are well-integrated with the total future requirements' picture for AID's operations.

4. The next logical step in the process of establishing the required computer support is the development of an implementation plan. I suggest, for this process and those subsequent to it, that it will be appropriate for a task team to be formed which is chaired by an RED member and composed of RED and AID members, who are appropriately responsible and knowledgeable in their respective roles for accomplishing the image manipulation computer support program.

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Special Assistant for Plans & Applications, RED

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